

CONFIDENTIAL : To be treated as strictly confidential until released for publication as follows :-

MORNING PAPERS : TUESDAY, 6TH JUNE, 1950.
EVENING PAPERS : TUESDAY, 6TH JUNE, 1950.
BROADCASTING STATIONS : MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, 5TH JUNE, 1950.

Monthly records of employment referred to in this notice relate to all wage and salary earners except those in rural industry and female private domestic service, and therefore cover about 90 per cent of all wage and salary earners in employment.

EMPLOYMENT DURING MARCH.

At the end of March, the number of persons employed (2,527,000) was greater by 11,600 (0.5 per cent) than in February, 1950. The number of males in employment rose by 4,500 to 1,839,400 and the number of females by 7,100 to 687,600.

Comparisons of numbers in employment in the months of March, 1949 and February and March, 1950 are as follows :-

NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT - AUSTRALIA.

(Excluding Rural Industry and Female Private Domestic Service)

Particulars	March, 1949	February, 1950	March, 1950
Males	1,773.5	1,834.9	1,839.4
Females	663.1	680.5	687.6
Persons	2,436.6	2,515.4	2,527.0

CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.

The largest absolute increases during March in number of males employed occurred in factories, where the rise was 4,100 to a total of 651,700; and in building and construction - a rise of 1,900 to 195,000. These and smaller increases were partially offset by a fall (mainly due to the Melbourne tram dispute) of 3,400 in transport and communication, which totalled 284,000 at the end of March.

The largest absolute increases in number of females employed occurred in factories - a rise of 2,600 to 224,300; in retail trade - a rise of 1,500 to 112,300; and in professional and personal services - a rise of 2,300 to 211,600.

FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

The number of persons employed in factories rose during March by 6,700 (or 0.8 per cent) to a total of 876,000.

The largest absolute increases in males employed occurred in the metals, machines, vehicles, etc. and food, drink and tobacco classes where the rises were 1,900 and 1,300 respectively. Movements in other class totals were small.

The largest absolute increases in females employed occurred in metals machines, vehicles, etc. - a rise of 1,100; in clothing - a rise of 700; and in food, drink and tobacco - a rise of 500. Movements in other class totals were small.

EMPLOYMENT BY GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES.

The number of persons employed by Governmental bodies (Commonwealth, State, Local and Semi-Governmental) on services such as railways, tramways, post-office, education, police, public works, etc., and in administration fell during March by 300 to 650,600. A decrease in tramway employment due to the dispute in Melbourne was almost offset by increases in employment of males in such activities as public works, post office, education, air transport, railways, etc., and of females in education, post office, and migrant camps and hostels.

Employees of Commonwealth authorities increased by 1,400 during March in such activities as post office, migrant camps, works, Commonwealth Bank, air transport, and workshops. Employees of Local Authorities increased by 600 whilst those of State and Semi-Governmental fell owing to the Melbourne tramway dispute.